

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-16 OIC-04 IO-14 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10

L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20

SP-03 FEAE-00 CG-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08

ACDA-19 OMB-01 JUSE-00 AGR-20 AEC-11 DOTE-00 FMC-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8310

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, SU

SUBJ: LOS-SUDANESE DELEGATION TO CARACAS CONFERENCE

REF: A. KHARTOUM 855; B. STATE 067788

1. SUMMARY: GOS HAS NOW SELECTED LOS DELEGATION, HEADED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL, WITH ONLY LIMITED EXPERIENCE LOS ISSUES AND IN MANY CASES NO FIXED POSITIONS ON ISSUES. EMBASSY HAS CONVEYED POSITION PAPERS ON USG VIEWS AND BELIEVES PERSONAL FOLLOW-UP BY US DELEGATION COULD HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS AS SUDANESE DEVELOP THEIR POSITIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. SUDANESE DELEGATION TO CARACAS LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE TO BE HEADED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL (MINISTERIAL RANK) DR. ZAKI MUSTAFA AND TO INCLUDE DR. FAISAL ABDEL RAHMAN (PARA 2 REF A); MUHAMMAD ABDEL KARIM, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND ABDEL MAJID ALI HASSAN, FIRST SECRETARY, SUDANESE UN MISSION NEW YORK. ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. ZAKI MUSTAFA HAS SPENT MOST OF RECENT CAREER AS UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, UNTIL EARLY YEARS NIMEIRI REGIME AS DEAN FACULTY LAW, KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY. HE WAS PURGED BY COMMUNISTS AT THAT TIME AND TAUGHT FIRST IN NIGERIA AND THEN AT HAILE SALASSIE UNIVERSITY, ADDIS ABABA, UNTIL HIS RECALL TO ASSUME PRESENT POSITION IN MAY 1973. WHILE HIS PERSONALITY LIKELY APPEAR BIT STAND-OFFISH AT FIRST MEETING, HE IS HIGHLY COMPETENT LAWYER WHOM WE HAVE FOUND WORTH CULTIVATING. FYI. DR. ZAKI HAS JURISDICTION OVER TRIAL BSO ASSASSINS WHICH NOW RAPIDLY DRAWING TO CLOSE HERE. TO DATE JUDICIAL PROCESS HAS BEEN CORRECTLY APPLIED AND DR. ZAKI HIMSELF FORCAST CURRENT ACCELERATED PACE TO AMBASSADOR AS EARLY AS MID-APRIL. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY KNOWS LITTLE RE OTHER MEMBERS DELEGATION. MUHAMMAD ABDEL KARIM PROBABLY EARLY THIRTIES AND HAS BEEN WITH MINISTRY ONLY TWO YEARS, PREVIOUSLY PRACTICING LAW IN KHARTOUM. HE NO DOUBT SELECTED BECAUSE, UNLIKE HIS SUPERIOR OMER AL-SHEIKH, HE IS BACHELOR AND HENCE LONG CONFERENCE LESS OF BURDEN. RE DR. FAISAL, OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION LOS ISSUES ANTICIPATED REF A NEVER MATERIALIZED. WE UNDERSTAND DR. FAISAL DID GRADUATE WORK IN LAW IN UK AND CHARACTERIZED BY ONE HIS PROFESSORS HERE AS BRILLIANT. AS FOR ALI HASSAN FROM SUDANESE UN MISSION, HE PRESUMABLY KNOWN TO USUN AS WELL AS DEPT OFFICERS WORKING ON LOS, SINCE HE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN FOLLOWING THESE ISSUES AT UN FOR PAST YEAR OR TWO.

5. SUDANESE DELEGATION CLEARLY LACKS IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE LOS ISSUES. NEITHER DR. ZAKI NOR FONMIN REP KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS LOS MEETINGS, WHILE DR. FAISAL'S SOLE EXPOSURE WAS ARAB LEAGUE MEETING NOTED REF A. ON OTHER HAND APPOINTMENT DR. ZAKI TO HEAD DELEGATION INDICATES THAT GOS GIVING CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT TO CARACAS MEETING. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT DR. ZAKI'S APPOINTMENT, AMBASSADOR SOUGHT MEETING WITH HIM TO REVIEW LOS ISSUES ONLY TO FIND HE TO BE OUT OF COUNTRY ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY PRIOR TO MEETING. AMBASSADOR ACCORDINGLY WROTE HIM PERSONALLY TO EXPRESS USG HOPES FOR CARACAS MEETING AND TRANSMIT SET USG POSITION PAPERS AND DRAFT ARTICLES ON VARIOUS LOS ISSUES. SIMILAR SET OF PAPERS LIKewise PROVIDED TO DR. FAISAL (WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS ALSO BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY) AND TO FONMINISTRY. IN BRIEF REVIEW GOS POSITIONS WITH MINISTRY REP MUHAMMAD ABDEL KARIM, JUNE 5, HE INDICATED THAT SUDANESE STILL REMAIN FLEXIBLE ON NUMBER OF POINTS AND HE THOUGHT MANY OTHERS IN GROUP 77 WOULD ALSO APPROACH CARACAS WITH OPEN MINDS.

6. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT SUDANESE "FLEXIBILITY" IN FACT REFLECTS LACK OF REAL ATTENTION (REF A) GIVEN BY GOS TO

MOST THESE ISSUES TO DATE. MOREOVER, AS ABDEL KARIM NOTED, MANY OF PROBLEMS HAVE POLITICAL CONTENT. WHEN TIME DECISION ARRIVES, THIS LIKELY LIMIT SUDANESE DELEGATION'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. DELEGATION IS, HOWEVER, ONE BOTH CAPABLE OF ANALYZING ISSUES IN PROFESSIONAL, COMPETENT FASHION AS WELL AS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH POWERED TO MAKE DECISIONS. THUS LACK OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AND FIXED INSTRUCTIONS MAY OFFER GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR FRUITFUL MISSIONARY WORK IN FAVOR OF USG POSITIONS. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, EXPECT SUDANESE BE GUIDED BY ARAB AND AFRICAN CONSENSUS WHENEVER LATTER DEVELOPS.

7. RECOMMEND US DELEGATION SEEK EARLY CONTACT WITH SUDANESE. WE HAVE MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTION HERE AND BELIEVE US DELEGATION WILL FIND SUDANESE COOPERATIVE, OPEN AND READY EXCHANGE IDEAS.
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